

[Mr. K. K. Chellappan Pillai.]

This event has deeply pained me. I claim to be a staunch Socialist. I believe that unless there is economic equality between man and man and equal opportunities in life, there can be neither peace in the community nor happiness for the individual and neither ruth nor morality. I believe that is the essence of non-violence and the basis of non-violence and that it can be brought about by methods of truth and non-violence. I have always declared it and with due sacrifice of modesty I should say that I have been in the political field for this avowed purpose at great cost. Anything against the spirit of truth and non-violence I have to denounce.

PRESIDENT: These are general political doctrines. The question is, what is the honourable member's statement.

MR. K. K. CHELLAPPAN PILLAI: These people.....

PRESIDENT: The honourable member took a lot of trouble over this matter and endeavoured to come to a settlement.

MR. K. K. CHELLAPPAN PILLAI: Even the leaders of their party here were not consulted before these misguided youths chose to create this situation.

PRESIDENT: The honourable member's statement is that they regret the slogans today.

MR. K. K. CHELLAPPAN PILLAI: Yes, as to which I or the leaders have no responsibility.

PRESIDENT: The honourable member will resume his seat. I did not, for a moment, think that the honourable member had any hand in this morning's affair and I do not ascribe the responsibility for the slogans to the honourable member.

MR. K. K. CHELLAPPAN PILLAI: It was my duty to clarify the whole position, since the matter is under negotiation, and is approaching a settlement.

DEMAND XXXVI—POST-WAR RECONSTRUCTION SCHEMES— EXPENDITURE BY THE RESEARCH DEPARTMENT.

RAJASEVAPPAVINA DR. K. L. MOUDGILL (*Director of Research*)
Sir, I rise to move for a grant of Rs. 2,13,508 under Demand XXXVI—Post-war Reconstruction Schemes—Expenditure by the Research Department.

Sir, usually the mover of the grant does not make a statement at the start. But as these schemes for which I am moving these grants were introduced for the first time last year and as unlike other departments, there is no Administration Report of the previous year to give an indication to the members of the House both as to the purport of the scheme and the progress thereon. I crave the indulgence of the House for making a statement.

PRESIDENT: It is open to any honourable member to make a statement.

DR. K. L. MOUDGILL: There are three schemes contemplated under this grant. The first of these schemes deals with soil Survey

A grant of Rs. 6,548 is sought as part of Post-war Reconstruction, which sounds insignificant and infinitesimal. I may say that this portion of the soil survey work is a part of and an auxiliary to larger schemes which I shall explain briefly. There has been a proposal before the Government for the Reclamation of certain areas in the Kayamkulam Lake and it was submitted by the Department of Research that, as is done in other countries, it is necessary that a soil survey should be undertaken in the first instance. A grant was made on this account last year and the soil survey is in progress. Our difficulties were mainly in the collection of representative samples from *under water*. We have followed a technique very recently adopted in the soil survey of Lake Albert in Australia. But the particular implement which they had improvised was found to be not procurable and we had to adopt a simple device suited to the area under survey at Kayamkulam.

Working in co-operation with the Public Works Department, various representative points were fixed, marked and 70 samples from these places have been collected. As is usually done in these cases, alternate samples are first taken for analysis. The analysis is a tedious process. It requires both a complete chemical examination and physical examination of the soil and 20 out of these 35 samples have been completely analysed. The report is expected to be ready in the course of three months. I seek a grant of a similar nature for the next year in order that if the reclamation scheme for Vembanad matures, the work may be extended to Vembanad. Otherwise, the work will be directed towards intensifying the general soil survey of the State where we have now quickened our programme.

The second scheme that is dealt with is the salt scheme. I have perhaps obtruded on the attention of the members of the House and of the public by venturing to put in a small article in the newspapers, dealing with questions of very great importance in regard to salt. I commend the article for the careful and earnest consideration of the members of the House and others. The Department of Research is not bringing this scheme just as a novel experiment to be tried out in an elementary manner. The salt scheme is based upon extensive exploratory experiments which have been conducted systematically for a period of eight years with finances provided by the University. It is about eight years since this question was taken up by the Department of Research with the object of improving the quality of salt produced in the salt areas as also with the object of securing vital by-products which are at present being thrown away. This work was started at the time when Mr. M. K. Nilakanta Aiyar was the Excise Commissioner. Professor K. R. Krishna Iyer who is the Head of the Chemistry Department, working with a number of research assistants, has been carrying out this work. I hope this House at least will realise—no matter whatever

[Dr. K. L. Moudgill.]

else may be said of me—that I am not fond of making boastful declarations. I can assert, and indeed I am glad to assert (and I must proudly assert in honour of those who have been working at it) that we have found ways by which in every salt factory in the State, we can produce without increasing the working cost of production such salt as can stand competition and comparison with any other quality of salt that is produced in India by the method of solar evaporation.

MR. P. K. KURIAKUSE: May I know whether these researches are made in the laboratories or on a large scale outside the laboratory?

DR. K. L. MOUDGILL: I am glad that this question has been asked, though I have to digress a little to answer it. These researches have been carried out both in the laboratory and in the field. As a result of these researches, the honourable member will be glad to know that we have 15,000 maunds of pure salt produced by the University method which is at this moment available. It is possible under the model salt factory scheme to see that at least the town of Trivandrum can be provided the year round with first rate salt and of as good a quality as is available anywhere else.

It may be asked whether there is any need for a model factory at the present moment, if I am able to state that this can be done. But the position is that so far as production of salt is concerned, it is governed by several fiscal safeguards and conditions which it is not possible for us to get over unless the economics of the process are made absolutely patent and manifest to every producer. That this should be done is not only necessary in the interests of these producers themselves but in the interests of the State as well. As perhaps the members of the House are aware, the Rayon factory which is coming up shortly will require alkalies which have to be produced in the State. For the production of these alkalies we will require as much as 10,000 tons or 5 lakhs maunds of salt. These industries will require pure salt. Good salt is absolutely necessary; otherwise, for the purification alone, factories elsewhere have suffered because they had to spend more than the price of the salt itself. We have it, on the highest authority, apart from our own diligent analysis, that the quality of salt is better than any solar salt that is available to the caustic soda factories in India. I do not mean the laboratory salt which I referred to but the 15,000 maunds of salt which are lying in the field under rather undesirable conditions, because the methods of storage cannot be improved in the land of other people who have asked us to come as guests and show them how to produce good salt.

The object of this research is twofold. Firstly, to show by actual demonstration that the finest quality of salt can be produced and secondly to convince the public that they have no longer any reason, unless they are so minded, to eat the rather discoloured and dirty salt. Secondly we have to find use for the various by-products which are much more expensive and equally vital for several industries. It is hoped that besides this demonstration of salt manu-

facture, we will carry out the processing of these by-products, produce them and make them available to the industries here and find a market for them elsewhere. For these reasons, Sir, it is very necessary that immediate steps should be taken in this direction.

In my article, I ventured to say that the fiscal changes in regard to salt policy about which of course the Government of Travancore have not expressed any opinion, would make a great deal of difference to the salt industry in the State.

MR. P. O. THOMAS : If the entire production of the salt is entrusted to this department, will it be able to carry it through ?

RAJYASEVAPRAVINA DR. K. L. MOUDGILL : This department will not take up the entire production of salt as a commercial undertaking for the simple reason that I do not want research people to take up work which will demand their attention beyond the investigational problem. But the method is proved and shown. It is for the Government later to decide how the entire production can be reorganised. I will maintain and reiterate this point, viz., that in all the production areas, salt of equally good quality can be produced, and we have got a method of doing so.

I must mention in fairness that the Salt Manufactures, struggling against difficulties, some of which have been got over, have achieved something praise-worthy. They have made Travancore an excess-producing area. But they have been able to thrive under a system of fiscal protection which, if removed, will lead straightaway to the dissolution of the salt industry or at least a very serious threat to it. That may not matter so far as foodstuffs are concerned because we unfortunately are used to depend upon others for our foodstuffs. But it would mean that a number of the industrialisation schemes that we have got will be jeopardised and threatened and we will have a regrettable spectacle of salt for these industries, the easiest procurable and the cheapest among their raw materials, coming from outside. The Department of Research asks for this grant of Rs. 54,620 for the next year.

I now come to the third scheme. This relates to Fisheries. During the course of discussion yesterday, a doubt was raised as to whether any Fish Liver Oil or Shark Liver Oil produced by our experimental factory had been given free in connection with the feeding of the poor children without commercial considerations. I regret to say that this has not been done. That is due to a self-denying limitation that the Department of Research has imposed upon itself in all its semi-commercial schemes in the early stages of its growth. The Shark Liver Oil scheme has been, till now, a Debt Head scheme. The officer who runs it makes himself responsible for all the sums expended. The profits go to Government, but if there is a loss, he is personally responsible for it. Under these conditions, it was not possible for us to indulge in such philanthropic activities. It would not have been fair to the officer who assume

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a big financial responsibility. I am sure this will commend itself to this House.

This work has been going on for a period of five years. It is now no longer necessary to carry it as an experiment. This has to be carried out on a commercial scale. The Department of Research would be glad to step out if a suitable agency could be entrusted with the work. Unhappily, this process has to be carried out by a well-organised scientific department; otherwise there are serious dangers which threaten the shark liver oil industry. In a neighbouring Province, they are adopting a process, perhaps pardonable from a commercial point of view, of blending Shark Liver oil with ground nut oil. This has been openly done. The justification apparently is that Shark Liver Oil is about eight times more potent than Cod Liver Oil. Therefore they take one part of shark liver oil, five parts of groundnut oil, mix the two, prepare a blend and thus give to the consumer something which is similar in potency to cod liver oil. As a matter of fact, that is a most deplorable practice. It is a practice which gives room for so many vagaries and frauds by unscrupulous producers that it ought to be prohibited. I am informed, Sir, that the Government of India advisory authorities, authorities on food and authorities on nutrition condemn this practice and put forward certain proposals with which, let us hope, it will be possible to stop that practice. Shark Liver Oil is a product which has to be subject to rigid scientific tests. We ask, Sir, that having proved under a Debt Head basis that it is a paying proposition, it should be taken up as a commercial venture and entrusted to the Department of Research.

I may inform the members of the House that during the last five years, we have produced more than 50,000 lbs. of this oil. We could have produced more but since the work was under a Debt Head basis, we could not burden ourselves with stocks except against advance orders and so we have dealt only with essential requirements. Even so, it has been worked with some profit. I feel, Sir, that the time has come when this can be introduced as a successful commercial venture. I may add that the Government are of course fully alive to this, viz., that the Department of Research should not burden itself unnecessarily with commercial concerns. It will indeed be a pleasing thing for the Department of Research, if it proves the success of this experiments, and is able to hand over the further work to other people. For the present the work requires scientific equipment, control and personnel which private agencies cannot secure.

I move that the House may be pleased to make the grant of Rs. 2,13,508 under Demand XXXVI---Post-war Reconstruction schemes---Expenditure by the Research Department.

DEMAND XXXVI—POST WAR RECONSTRUCTION SCHEMES— 1121
EXPENDITURE BY THE RESEARCH DEPARTMENT.

MR. M. K. NILAKANTAN : സർ, യുദ്ധാനന്തരപുനഃസംവിധാനപദ്ധതി ഡിപ്പാർട്ട്മെന്റിനോടനുബന്ധമായുള്ള ഗവേഷണശാഖയുടെ ആവശ്യത്തിലേക്കു രണ്ടുലക്ഷത്തിപതിനെണ്ണായിരത്തിഅഞ്ഞൂററിഎട്ടുരൂപ ആവശ്യപ്പെട്ടിരിക്കുന്നതിൽ നിന്നും ഒരു രൂപ കുറയ്ക്കണമെന്നുള്ള ഒരു ഉപക്ഷേപം ഫാജറാക്കണം. സർ, ഈ ഉപക്ഷേപം ഫാജറാക്കുന്നത് ഒരു ഉദ്ദേശത്തോടു ചൂടിയാണ്. കുന്നത്തൂർ താലൂക്കിലുള്ള ശാസ്താംകോട്ട കായൽ, അപ്പുഴക്കായലിനോടു യോജിപ്പിച്ച് ആ താലൂക്കിലുള്ള ഗതാഗതസൗകര്യം വർദ്ധിപ്പിക്കുന്നതിനുള്ള മാഗ്നാടം അന്വേഷിച്ച അതിന്നു സംബന്ധിച്ച് വേണ്ട നടപടികൾ നടത്തേണ്ടതാണെന്നുള്ള സംഗതി ഗവണ്മെൻറു ശ്രദ്ധയിൽ കൊണ്ടുവരുന്നതിനാണ്. കുന്നത്തൂർ താലൂക്കിന്റെ പരമാധീനത പ്രത്യക്ഷമാണ്. ആ താലൂക്കിൽ ജലമാഗ്നാടം ഗതാഗതം ചെയ്യുന്നതിനുള്ള യാതൊരു സൗകര്യവുമില്ല. അവിടെ റോഡുകൾ മാത്രമുണ്ടുള്ളത്. അതുതന്നെയും വളരെ കുറവാണ് ഉള്ളവതന്നെ വളരെ മോശമായ സ്ഥിതിയിലാണ് കിടക്കുന്നത്. ഏകദേശം മൂക്കാൽ മൈൽ നീളത്തിൽ ഒരു തോടുവെട്ടിയാൽ ആയിരം ഏക്കറോളം വിസ്താരമുള്ള ശാസ്താംകോട്ടക്കായൽ അപ്പുഴക്കായലിനോടു യോജിപ്പിക്കുന്നതിനു സാധിക്കും. കുന്നത്തൂർ താലൂക്കിന്റെ പല ഭാഗങ്ങളിലും വ്യവസായപരമായിട്ടും കൃഷി—കച്ചവടപരമായിട്ടും പലതും പ്രവർത്തിക്കുന്നതിന് മേൽപ്പറഞ്ഞമാതിരിയുള്ള ഗതാഗതസൗകര്യം ഉണ്ടാക്കേണ്ടതിൽ സാധിക്കുന്നതാണ്. ഇതിനെ സംബന്ധിച്ചിടത്തോളം ഒരു സ്കീം തിരുവിതാംകൂറിലെ ചീഫ് എഞ്ചിനീയറായിരുന്ന മി. ട്രസുകുട്ട ഇതിനു മുന്പൊരിക്കൽ തയ്യാറാക്കി ഗവണ്മെന്റിലേക്ക് സമർപ്പിച്ചിട്ടുണ്ടെന്നാണ് ഞാൻ അറിയുന്നത്. സർ, ഈ പദ്ധതികൊണ്ട് ആ താലൂക്കിലേക്ക് എത്രമാത്രം പ്രയോജനമുണ്ടാകുമെന്നുള്ള വസ്തുത പറയാതെ തന്നെ അറിയാവുന്നതാണ്. വ്യാവസായികമായി ആ താലൂക്കിനു ഉയർച്ച ഉണ്ടാക്കുന്നതിനു ഈ തോടു ഒന്നാമത്തെ സ്ഥാനം അർഹിക്കും.

The question that 'a sum of Rs. 2,13,508 under Demand XXXVI—Postwar Reconstruction Schemes—Expenditure by the Research Department, was put and carried.

The demand was passed and the grant was made.

DEMAND XXXVII—POST-WAR RECONSTRUCTION
SCHEMES—INDUSTRIES SUB COMMITTEE AND
STATISTICS.

The question that Government be granted a sum of Rs. 1,30,000 under Demand XXXVII — Postwar Reconstruction Schemes — Industries Sub Committee and Statistics was put and carried.